

CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. This is a computerized system constructed with state-of-the-art web technologies and database management systems that leverages the public accessibility afforded by the Internet to provide a computerized mechanism by which members of the public-at-large can self-initiate the reporting of an incident (an event – criminal or non-criminal) to one or more law enforcement agencies via the Internet, an Intranet, or an Extranet, whereby the system captures data pertinent to the incident in the form of a logical association of all elements of the incident (including, but not limited to: victim, witness, reporting party, location, incident type, narrative, modus operandi, incident details, and suspect information) and makes said data available to law enforcement following the automatic notification of one or more law enforcement agencies of the initiation of an incident report; and, provides the ability for one or more law enforcement agencies to access said data across multiple incident reports for collaborative and investigative purposes.
2. A computerized system as defined in claim 1 wherein any person, i.e. any member of the public-at-large, not necessitated as being a member of a law enforcement agency, can access the system via the Internet, an intranet, or an extranet connection and thus execute the methods of this invention to self-initiate the creation of an Incident Report comprised of logical data components that when associated as a whole reflect the circumstances of an event (either criminal or non-criminal in nature) witnessed by, experienced by, or in some means known to the person reporting the incident.
3. The methods of this invention from claim 2 - by means of an application wizard - facilitate, prompt, guide, lead, a person through the process of creating the logical data components that expressly define the characteristics of an incident (an event); including methods for:

eliciting data/information pertaining to the person reporting the incident;

eliciting data/information pertaining to the victim of the incident;

eliciting data/information pertaining to the person suspected of causing the incident;

eliciting data/information pertinent to the incident itself (e.g. date, time);

eliciting data/information pertinent to a specific type of incident (e.g. fraud, pornography, theft, sexual solicitation);

eliciting data/information pertinent to location (e.g. the location where the incident occurred, the home address of the victim);

eliciting data/information that describe or identify any/all persons involved in the incident (e.g. physical descriptors such as height, weight and identifiers such as email name or social security number);

eliciting data/information pertinent to the modus operandi employed during the incident (e.g., subject pretended to be a child); and,

eliciting a freeform narrative describing the incident.

4. Automatic notification as proffered in claim 1 provides the unprecedented ability of a computerized system to automatically notify one or more law enforcement agencies, or other associated agencies, of the submission of an incident report when characteristics of the incident match pre-defined, adjustable parameters; including, but not limited to: location of the incident, location of the victim, type of incident, estimated dollar loss.
5. Automatic notification as defined in claim 4 may include notification of one or more agencies via one or more methods of communication: messaging between computer systems, integration and data transfer between computer systems, electronic mail, fax, telephony, and/or personal contact by monitoring agency personnel.

6. Access to data, by law enforcement or other designated agencies, as defined in claim 1 is distinguishable as either: access to data relevant to a single incident report against which an agency may elect to take action, or, as access to data contained in multiple incident reports against which an agency may compile statistics, identify trends, search for relationships and global patterns, correlate commonalities, and utilize for collaborative and investigative purposes.
7. The method of claim 6 whereby an agency accesses data relevant to a single incident report provides the ability to view, modify, and/or export all logically associated components of the designated incident report.
8. The method of claim 6 whereby an agency accesses data contained in multiple incident reports provides global access to any or all incident report data contained in the data repository and provides the ability to invoke decision support system (DSS), data mining, search engine, and reporting tools against any or all incident report data contained in said data repository.
9. The method of global access as defined in claim 8 may be limited by the invocation of one or more optional parameters used to define the domain of the data; including, but not limited to: domain limiting parameters such as geographical location of incidents and agency notification qualifiers associated with incidents.
10. The method of global access as defined in claim 8 may remain unlimited and thus the domain of the data will be unrestricted and not bound by agency qualifiers or geographical boundaries providing an unprecedented method for interagency collaboration within the global domain of the repository.
11. The application wizard of claim 3 is a deliberate presentation of questions, answers, and statements that when presented to the person reporting the incident and said person selects a specific statement from the set of statements presented or selects a specific answer to a specific question will cause the system to execute specific application logic that facilitates, prompts, guides, leads, the person through the process of creating the incident report relevant to the type of incident (e.g. pornography, stalking) being reported.
12. The method of claim 11, the application wizard, provides an imbedded intelligence that programmatically derives the type of incident being reported and directs the system to

execute application logic directly related to each specific type of incident, thus, creating a process that is intuitive and focused in its collection of relevant data.